

## A NEW SECT AND ITS PROPHECY

A CHURCH HAS 160,000 FOLLOWERS IN BELGIUM.

An American Woman Among Those Who Believe in Antoine's Power of Healing Berlin Smaller Than Chicago. Thousands to Visit More New Year's to Read Character The Pope and Cremation Poetry as a Cure for Sickness. Dr. Hode Sticks to His Opinion About the Flora Rust.

ANTOINE, Dec. 14. Some mention was made recently in THE SUN of Antoinism, the new religion founded in Belgium by a man named Antoine.

Antoine, the "Good Father" or the "Healer," as his followers call him, is a man of 65, with flowing white locks and a paternalistic face. His followers number 160,000, of whom 300, including his wife, "the Good Mother," are in Belgium.

Antoine's home is at Tempele-lez-Liège, in a block of similar small houses. The prophet's dwelling is only a few feet from the door of the church, which is the center of the church's activities. The door of the church is a simple wooden door, and bears a sign which reads "Rue de la Vierge" and "Rue de la Vierge" at night for M. Antoine.

For three years Antoine has not left his house or garden. He lives entirely on vegetables, which he prepares himself. He keeps little, resting only for two hours during the night, the greater part of which he spends walking in his little garden, which has electric lamps fitted all around the walls. He never reads anything, he will not see newspaper men, and only holds communication with the outside world by means of the telephone.

He continues his healing to ceremonies in the church, where the services are of the simplest description. They take place at 10 o'clock A. M. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. At 10 o'clock A. M. the congregation assembles, and an adept, M. Deregancourt, the publisher of the sect's literature, takes his place at a desk under a raised platform. There is complete silence for half an hour, then M. Deregancourt announces that operations will take place at certain hours on certain days and that all who wish to be cured must have perfect faith.

He then continues sitting perfectly still, not a muscle moving and his watery eyes fixed in an unblinking stare toward the front. At the stroke of every one o'clock and the "Prayer One" comes by a side door and slowly walks up the steps to the rostrum.

Wearing a black cassock and with his gray hair falling around his shoulders, Antoine faces the congregation for a full minute without moving or uttering a sound. He then lifts his right hand toward them and holds it thus extended for another minute. That is all. Those two minutes make the service. The "Good Father" walks slowly out, the adept remarks "Every one whose faith is strong enough must be cured," and the church empties silently. No collection is made, but subscriptions are taken for the maintenance of the church, which Antoine built himself with a legacy of \$40,000.

For six months Antoine has spoken a word to no one. People come at all hours with all sorts of ailments and ailments. Antoine effects his cures now by himself. His wife or some other adept stands in front of the applicant and turning her eyes upward slowly waves her hand in the air, which means that she is making Antoine "the Healer."

The patient or the patient's deputy then departs. The cure is effected, or if not, then there has been a lack of faith. There is nothing to pay. The adept of the sect is "the true of the knowledge of the right of evil," represented by a white tree on a black background.

One of Antoine's chief disciples is an American woman, Mrs. Guillaume, who came over to be treated by her chalybeate, which compelled her to walk on crutches. She says she is now perfectly cured and has herself become adept with power to heal by faith.

Antoine's power and insight, says Mrs. Guillaume, extends to Antoine. He told her that her husband had hurt her back in New York, and a week later a letter came from her daughter, confirming it and adding that he had quickly got better. "This too was in accord with what Antoine had told her, for he had said that she need not worry about her husband, as he was 'in fluidic communion' with him, and that he would soon be better."

The operator of the Valletta Museum at Malta, writes to the Times an interesting account of the discovery there of a new grave. He says of the contents of the grave:

"Under the soil which filled up the cavity to the surface was a layer of human bones soaked with the clayey soil as to be soaked off with great difficulty. With these bones were three fragments of Punic pottery. Under these and lying on the floor of the cavity was a bright red mass of material about the size of a brick. This was composed of human bones mixed with sandy soil and bits of pottery fragments, which on analysis proved to be human bones, was intimately mixed with the remains, both bones and pottery being deeply stained."

The whole mass was carefully handled and a good number of postholes were obtained. At least twelve different bones were deposited in this grave. The bones were mostly dark gray, and some light and some dark and hand polished. The bones were all of a small size.

The bones were ornamented with incised lines, mostly deep, and filled up with a white substance. They recall to my mind the bones of the Hittites in their original form. No flint implements were found, nor other objects of use except a few postholes. From the bones only a few bones were obtained in a satisfactory manner, and these present many peculiarities worth studying. The bones, with the exception of the red pigment and the postholes, were now lodged in the Valletta Museum.

bers 3,712,554 inhabitants, an increase of 15 per cent since the census of 1905. Greater Berlin in its anxiety not to lag too far behind New York and Paris has assimilated no fewer than fifty-seven outlying towns and villages situated within a radius of fifteen miles from the center of the capital.

The metropolis itself only numbers 2,000,148 inhabitants, and forfeits the rank of the fourth city in the world to Chicago. The growth of Berlin proper since 1905 is only 24,065, but the great contiguous suburbs of Charlottenburg, Wilmersdorf, Schöneberg, Rixdorf, Treptow, Tempelhof and Friedenau have increased enormously, some of them as much as 100 per cent.

Wilmersdorf, Berlin's fashionable west end, has grown 69.9 per cent. The great majority of Berlin's census is that trade and industry are turning old time residential space and are driving the house-dwelling class out of the metropolis proper into the forest of flats springing up in the outskirts.

The predominating feature of the national census is the growing preponderance of the female element in Germany, and this is exercising the minds not only of the Government but of all politicians and social reformers. There is a deep rooted idea in Germany, which is well known, that woman's sphere is the home and that it is the destiny of woman to seek a mate and find her happiness in the upbringing of her children.

The increasing preponderance of women is forcing Germany further and further away from this ideal and is making the position more and more difficult for those who still oppose the entrance of women into all sorts of occupations and professions.

Strange enough, in France too the same increase in the excess of women over men is noted. Although the last census in France was taken in 1906, the detailed results were only made public last week. The census gives the number of males as 19,090,721, and the number of females as 19,741,932, a difference of 651,211 in favor of the latter sex. Twenty years ago the female sex in France outnumbered the male by only 130,000.

The accumulated stocks of diamonds have been exhausted, and the market must now be supplied with current production, said the chairman of the great De Beers Company last week at its annual meeting held at Kimberley, South Africa. The company's continued policy, he stated, was to supply the market with only such quantities as it could absorb.

The production of diamonds was not nearly as great as the sales which had been taking place in the last year or two, owing to the fact that those sales represented stocks which had previously accumulated, as well as the ordinary production. As regards the high class goods, their value had appreciated, but this, he said, had been practically counterbalanced by the lower values of small or inferior products. He hoped that some understanding would be arrived at by the various producers to limit the output of lower class goods, thus reestablishing prices at a higher level.

From the above it seems tolerably certain that diamonds, like meat and other necessities of life, will cost more. The company made a profit for the year of \$13,638,625, out of which the directors made an appropriation of \$125,000 as a donation to the fund for the proposed South African University.

The higher phenology has arrived. Character told by colored light flashes thrown into the eye this is the latest discovery.

John Gray, the inventor, a member of the British Association of the Anthropological Institute and B. S. of Edinburgh has just concluded a long series of experiments in what he calls the new phenology. It is the science of measuring intelligence by exact methods which reveal the composition and qualities of the human brain.

Mr. Gray explains that a correct estimate of character can be made by measuring the degree of perseveration or persistence of the nervous current in the brain. The machine which measures the perseveration consists of a revolving mirror mounted on an axis. At one end of the axis is a handle for turning it and at the other is a speed indicator which tells the number of revolutions the mirror is making.

The mirror, as it revolves projects two different colors in rapid succession into the eye of the individual who is being tested. When the mirror is moved very slowly these colors are seen as a sort of flickering light. But as the speed increases the colors gradually disappear and at a certain point the flicker disappears and a steady light is seen representing the mixture of the two colors.

The speed is read from the indicator at the instant when the individual who is being dealt with states that the flicker has disappeared. From the reading of the indicator this point the perseveration is ascertained. When the perseveration has been measured in this way the character of the person is read off from a chart in which the different kinds of intelligence are shown.

The two extreme classes in this chart, persons with the highest and lowest degrees of perseveration, are likely to suffer from insanity, but of quite different kinds. Those with the lowest perseveration are liable to develop acute mania and those with the highest are liable to melancholia.

The intervening classes represent different kinds of mental character among sane persons. Average perseveration points out the ordinary common sense man. When the perseveration is below the average ideas flow more quickly and people of one degree below have witty, brilliant, suggestive minds and are tactful, self-possessed and bold. Two degrees below indicate frivolity, weak moral character and superficial minds.

One degree above the average are found people who learn slowly and think slowly, fond of abstract thinking. Two degrees above are people stupider.

The further the mind is from the average after the first degree, either above or below, the greater its defects. When perseveration is more than two degrees above or below the average the mind is unstable.

The average perseveration of women, it seems, is considerably less than that of men, which explains why they have quicker apprehension and more tact and presence of mind, with less of those good qualities associated with high perseveration.

Light haired people have more perseveration than dark haired.

What has become of the Jewish population of Italy? The latest census indicates that there are no more than 170,000 Jews in that country.

In 1870 they numbered 300,000, and by the natural laws of increase, statisticians say, that number should now be about 50 per cent more. Striking decreases in the Jewish communities are noted in single cities, such as for instance, Pisa, an ancient seat of Hebrew learning.

This city had until comparatively recent times a considerable Jewish population, with famous schools and a great printing establishment of worldwide reputation, the property of the Jewish community, where the best editions of the Talmud and other works of Hebrew lore were produced. According to Dr. Bloch the demand for works in Hebrew has declined so much of late years throughout the world that the printing establishment got into financial difficulties and has recently been taken over by the Government, the result being that its purely Hebrew character has been lost.

A subscription is now being raised among Italian Jews for the production of a new prayer book, which will probably have to be printed in Russia or Germany. Dr. Bloch thinks that mixed marriages and conversions are responsible for the great decline of Jewry in Italy.

There is apparently confusion for the recent report in THE SUN from a French source that the Pope is preparing a decree to authorize cremation. *Die Flamme*, the chief German organ of cremation, goes so far as to state that Pope Pius X is personally greatly in favor of cremation and that as Cardinal Sarto he made strenuous representations to Leo XIII in order to procure the *eternal repose*.

Dr. Ullrich, a noted Bohemian physician, recently addressed a petition to the Pope in which he set forth his reasons for praying that cremation might receive the official assent of the Supreme Pontiff. Dr. Ullrich, who was recently in Rome and who then made inquiries regarding the petition, was informed that it had not been placed *ad acta*, but had been submitted to the *Congregatio Inquisitionis* and that the matter was making good progress.

*Die Flamm* understands that the Pope has given directions for the cremation of his own body, although of course no absolutely authentic confirmation of this is obtainable.

A small metal box containing an electric light globe and a cup for holding alcohol as the basis of an invention from which much is expected of a fast and economical *corset* such as pneumonia when it becomes necessary to keep up the heart's action until the lung symptoms subside.

For some time it has been recognized that the best way to supply alcoholic stimulant to the laboring heart in pneumonia is via the lungs in the form of vapor. Now Prof. Leonard Hill of the London Hospital has invented a little apparatus by which a mixed vapor of oxygen, water and alcohol is carried directly to the lungs, whence it reaches the heart from the pulmonary artery. Thence the stimulant is carried directly to the heart muscle itself by the coronary arteries.

Dr. Philipp, a German physician, describes in an article published in a Munich medical journal the curious effects of henbane poisoning on the brain. He tells how twenty-five visitors and some employees at a boarding establishment at Deggendorf, Bavaria, in which a quantity of henbane root had been accidentally mixed. All the persons who had eaten the mixture were poisoned; the women being the greater sufferers.

A Russian lady who spoke German fluently forgot that language completely, an Englishwoman wanted to teach everybody her native tongue, one woman thought herself a living statue and would not move from one position; another insisted on crawling about the floor in search for a valuable object she believed she had lost; several women could not stop laughing; a servant placed twenty-five cents in her pocket, her own belt instead of in those of her visitors.

When the physician was called in haste one of the women guests greeted him as an old friend and would not leave him. A man busied himself in counting imaginary banknotes which he snatched from out of the air, while another man set out to find a chemist, lost his memory and proceeded to buy a lot of useless articles from various shops. The proprietor of the establishment carried a tureen of soup to his bedroom and emptied the liquid on the floor.

Antidotes were speedily administered, and in the course of a few hours all the sufferers had regained their normal senses.

The King and Queen are being entertained this week by a man who began life as a herdsman in Scotland. The career of Lord Mount-Stephen, who is their Majesty's host at Broomhall, has been one of the romances of modern biography.

From herdsman he rose to be a draper's apprentice and worked afterward as an assistant in a London drapery store. Then he decided to try his luck in Canada, whether he emigrated in 1850. What fortune he met with there is well known.

He became head of the Canadian Pacific Railroad, president of the Bank of Montreal and president of the St. Paul and Manitoba Railroad. He obtained a peerage as the reward for his labors in Canada, being the first man in the colonies to attain this distinction. He is one of the most intimate friends of King George. Although in his eighty-second year, he is more active than most men of middle age.

Sufferers from mal de mer who have tried without success medical and mechanical means of combating this distressing complaint may be inclined to experiment with the method of preventing seasickness discovered by the late Prof. Henry Sidgwick. A C. Benson tells in the *Cornhill Magazine* how the professor, who had a wonderful verbal memory, would put this method into operation.

Referring to some secluded part of the vessel he would "pour out audibly and rhetorically his peroration of English verse, accompanying it with a good deal of emphatic gesticulation. He said he could go on repeating poetry continuously if he did not force the pace for about

BROOKLYN ADVERTISEMENTS. BROOKLYN ADVERTISEMENTS. BROOKLYN ADVERTISEMENTS. BROOKLYN ADVERTISEMENTS.

Store Closed Monday

## ABRAHAM AND STRAUS

Store Closed Monday

## Greatest of All White Sales.



WE LEAVE THE VERDICT TO YOU. The sale begins at 8:30 next Tuesday morning.

- Chemises, 49c. to \$1.98.
- At 49c. Nainsook Chemises, with embroidery, lace, edging and ribbon; others with Trenchon edging, ribbon run.
- At 59c. Chemises, trimmed at bottom, some with yoke of lace insertions and rows of ribbon heading; others with insertion of good embroidery, ribbon heading and lace edging, tucked ruffle at bottom.
- At 69c. Chemises, trimmed at bottom, some with yoke of lace embroidery and lace insertion, ribbon heading and lace edging; others with yoke of French embroidery, also plain bottom, with yoke eylet embroidery run with ribbon at neck.
- Others at 79c., 89c., \$1.18, \$1.39, \$1.48, \$1.69, \$1.79 and \$1.98.
- Circular Drawers, 39c. to 79c.
- At 39c. Circular Drawers of cambric, trimmed with embroidered scalloped ruffle; others with lawn hemstitched tucked ruffle.
- At 49c. An unmatched assortment of circular Drawers; some of nainsook with lace trimmed ruffle; others with ruffle of dainty dotted embroidery; others of cambric, with ruffle of lace or good embroidery.
- At 59c. Nainsook circular Drawers with dainty ruffle of French embroidery; others with ruffle of good eylet embroidery.
- At 69c. A splendid assortment of circular Drawers, of nainsook, with fine lawn ruffle, trimmed with insertions of lace and embroidery, lace edging; others with ruffle of eylet embroidery; others trimmed with lace, others of cambric, with ruffle of fine embroidery.
- Short Underskirts at 99c. to 98c.
- At 19c. Short Underskirts of cambric with hemstitched ruffle. No mail, telephone or hurry box orders filled.
- Others at 29c.
- At 39c. Cambric Underskirts, some with lawn ruffle, trimmed with insertions and edging of lace; others with tucked ruffle, trimmed with embroidery; others with cambric tucked ruffle.
- At 49c. Cambric Underskirts with deep ruffle of good embroidery, others with deep fine lawn hemstitched tucked ruffle; others with hemstitched tucked ruffle, edged with lace.
- At 59c. Cambric Underskirts, tucked and trimmed with ruffle of good embroidery.
- Others at 69c., 79c. and 98c.

Manufacturer's Sample Line at 40% Less Than Actual Value.

A BEAUTIFUL COLLECTION of samples of fine, sheer materials and dainty lace insertions, all effectively trimmed with ribbons; the stock consists of Gowns, Chemises, Drawers, Combinations, also princess effects, Corset Covers and princess Slips.

Gowns, \$1.25 to \$5.50. Chemises, 99c. to \$4.48. Drawers, 79c. to \$5.48.

Combinations, \$1.39 to \$5.48. Corset Covers, 69c. to \$3.25. Princess Combinations, \$2.44 to \$11.98. Princess Slip, \$1.25 to \$5.79.

Lingerie From Paris, Vienna, Germany and Madeira Islands.

FROM THE WORLD'S best hand makers of dainty Lingerie—never has such a beautiful stock been shown in this borough.

The Gowns. At \$1.79. Paris made Gowns, open front, square and round neck, silk hand embroidered in floral and dotted effects, embroidered eylets, ribbon run at neck, flowing sleeves, embroidered scallop; also chemise style with yokes prettily hand embroidered in daisy and graceful spray and dotted effects; some with flowing sleeves, finished with embroidered scalloped ruffle; others with pointed flowing sleeves, finished with embroidered scallop.

At \$1.98. Paris made Chemise Gowns, front prettily hand embroidered, tucked back, flowing sleeves; others with flowing sleeves, prettily opened and finished with ribbon bows; others have a round yoke set on with veiling, hand embroidered in woad and dotted effect, with small embroidered sprays scattered on the yoke, embroidered eylets, ribbon run, flowing sleeves, with embroidered scallop.

A beautiful collection of Paris made Gowns, exquisitely hand embroidered; some elaborated with hand made baby Irish insertions; others daintily trimmed with Valenciennes lace, comprising all the very newest effects, ranging upward to \$108.00.

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## Corsets in the Sale.

\$1.25 to \$4.00 Corsets at 79c.

Warner's Rust-Proof Corsets; the Brassier top is fastened separately and covers the top of the Corset. Supporters attached. J. B. Corsets, medium long hip, made of white coutil, supporters attached.

\$2.00 to \$5.00 Corsets at 98c.

Redfern, J. B., Rengo Belt Corsets. Redfern Corsets boned with whalebone, a very novel and new combination of Brassier and Corset; excellent model for the average figure.

\$5.00 Corsets at 98c.

J. B. Corsets, four new models to select from, displayed on forms. Rengo Belt Corsets, designed for stout women.

Her Majesty Corsets, \$1.49.

New Directorate models.

Second Floor, Front East Building.

## The Great Annual Sale of Household Linens

Plays Large Part in the Great White Sale.

The best makers in the world sell many of their products through this Store exclusively in Brooklyn—the largest outlet for their manufactures. Messrs. John S. Brown & Sons, the world-famed manufacturers of fine Linens, in Belfast, Ireland, have given us the SOLE AGENCY for their goods in this borough. So we bring to the Brooklyn public not only remarkable values but the best merchandise the world affords.

## Annual Sale of Hosiery and Underwear

That Makes a New Mark in Value Giving.

THIS EXTRAORDINARY SALE, which brings the lowest pricing of the year, has a very good reason behind it. It is literally the Clearance Sale of months, not only of our own stocks, but of leading makers all over the world. Store orders only on all items.

FOR INSTANCE: The women's Undervests, Tights, Drawers, Corset Covers and Combination Suits are the samples used by the salesmen on the road of one of the largest houses in this line of goods. They may be slightly mussed, but are absolutely perfect goods despite the apparently impossible prices. The children's Underwear comprises discontinued lines and broken sizes taken from our own stock. And similar reasons account for the amazing prices on men's Hosiery and Underwear in this UNPARALLELED YEAR-END SALE. They are placed in special lots for convenience.

Lot 1—Women's 25c. Underswear, 17c.

Three lined Undervests, long sleeves, double length Drawers, French hand. These are not samples.

Lot 2—35c. to 50c. Values at 29c.

Women's fleece lined Undervests and Drawers, in regular and extra sizes; some fleece lined Combinations, in regular sizes; also some natural color merino Undervests, short sleeves.

Lot 3—75c. to \$1.00 Values at 50c.

Women's merino and silk mixtures, also cotton and silk Undervests, Drawers and Tights, some Combination Suits.

Men's, Women's and Children's Stockings.

Women's 15c. Stockings, 9c.

Fast black cotton Stockings, seamless, with double heels and toes.

Lot 1—Women's 25c. to 35c. Stockings, 15c.

Fast black cotton, in medium and heavy weight; some cotton with embroidered fronts, some with unbleached split soles; also tan and slate cotton.

Lot 2—Women's 50c. to 75c. Stockings, 24c.

Fast black gauge hosiery and silk hosiery, plain and embroidered fronts; black and colored hosiery, with lace ankles; fine black cotton all black and unbleached soles.